

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - District 4 Toll Bridge Program**

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August 15, 2008

Contract No. 04-0120F4

04-SF-80-13.2 / 13.9

Self-Anchored Suspension Bridge

Letter No. 05.03.01-002561

Michael Flowers  
Project Executive  
American Bridge/Fluor, A JV  
375 Burma Road  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Michael Flowers,

**Temporary Suspension of Diaphragm Plate to Deck Panel Assembly**

ZPMC has commenced fitting-up and welding diaphragm plates over the closed-rib deck "super" panels. In some cases, the diaphragm plates, as shown on Contract Plan Sheet 646, have been fit-up over tack welds not yet evaluated for the presence of tack weld cracks. In other cases the diaphragm plates have been fully welded over tack welds known to have cracks (see attachment). These diaphragm plates will block future access for tack weld crack testing and/or repair.

The presence of cracks in tack welds constitutes a failure to conform to the contract requirements. Special Provision Section 10-1.59, "Steel Structures," requires that tack welds shall be incorporated into the final weld and shall not result in cracks or tears.

Therefore, in order to prevent additional adverse impacts to tack weld testing and repairs, ABF is hereby directed to suspend the work involved in diaphragm plate to deck plate fit-up and welding, as provided in Section 8-1.05, "Temporary Suspension of the Work," of the Standard Specifications. The suspension shall remain in effect until cracks in tack welds in the vicinity of the diaphragms are corrected to the satisfaction of the Engineer. This suspension is specific to the work and items described in this letter (diaphragm fit up and diaphragm to deck plate welding) and does not apply to other fabrication activities currently underway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'for GARY PURSELL', with a stylized flourish.

GARY PURSELL  
Resident Engineer

cc: Peter Siegenthaler  
Rick Morrow  
file: 05.03.01